

# Iowa Crops & Weather



Iowa Agricultural Statistics  
 210 Walnut, Room 833 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195  
 515-284-4340 • 1-800-772-0825 • FAX 515-284-4342 • nass-ia@nass.usda.gov  
 To access NASS reports - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>



Issued April 7, 2003

Vol. 03-05

For the week ending April 6, 2003

## MUCH NEEDED PRECIPITATION ARRIVES

Multiple forms of precipitation were received across Iowa during the end of last week. As a result, most of Iowa was left with snow on the ground as fieldwork progress was delayed. Soil moisture concerns have persisted through the winter and into spring, especially across southern Iowa. The recent moisture may help to improve soil moisture conditions. Spring calving has been going very well, but the drastic change in temperatures late last week was hard on the livestock. Fertilizer application, disking of corn stalks, oat seeding, and some herbicide application were disrupted by the precipitation last week.

Topsoil moisture ratings were 14 percent very short, 31 percent short, 52 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus across Iowa. Subsoil moisture ratings were 19 percent very short, 37 percent short, 43 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork, compared to 3.5 days last year at this time. Oat seedings are 35 percent complete, ahead of both last year's progress of 31 percent and the five-year average of 29 percent. No significant corn planting has occurred in Iowa. Primary seedbed preparations are 34 percent complete, while fertilizer applications are 55 percent complete. Range and pasture conditions rated 15 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

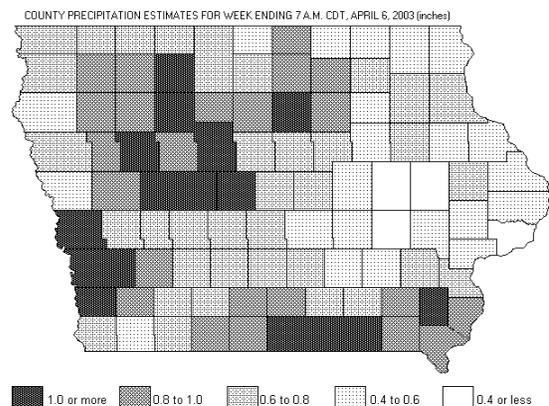
## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY

The past week brought a wide variety of weather to Iowa. Temperatures reached into the 80's in far western Iowa on Monday (31st) with 81 degree readings at Glenwood and Sioux City. Summerlike temperatures, but with very low humidity, were the rule

over most of the state on Tuesday (1st) and Wednesday (2nd) with a 91 degree high at Glenwood on Tuesday. Much colder air slowly edged into Iowa on Thursday (3rd) with daytime highs only in the upper 30's in the far northwest while readings in the 70's prevailed over much of the rest of the state. Daytime temperatures on Friday remained below freezing across much of northern and central Iowa. Cold weather was the rule on Saturday with Fayette reporting a low of 17 degrees on Saturday morning while daytime temperatures were only in the 30's and low 40's. Decorah reported the week's lowest temperature with a 16 degrees minimum on Sunday (6th) morning. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged from 1.6 degrees below normal at Dubuque up to 5.3 degrees above normal at Ottumwa. Dry weather prevailed during the very warm early week period while a few light rain showers and thunderstorms were scattered across the state on Thursday. Precipitation was widespread on Friday (4th) when thunderstorms brought hail, sleet, rain and snow to various parts of Iowa. Friday's precipitation was concentrated in central and northeast Iowa, where 1 to 2 inches of snow accumulated and a few locations received up to one-half inch of rain. Finally, a strong storm system entered the state on Sunday, bringing precipitation to all of Iowa. The precipitation arrived entirely in the form of snow in northern Iowa with 6 to 9 inch accumulations common across the northwest one-third of the state. Three to 6 inches of snow fell from west central into northeast Iowa while precipitation came primarily in the form of rain over the southeast one-third of the state. This storm system was still depositing snow as of 7:00 a.m. Monday (7th), but had already produced a statewide average of 0.52 inches of precipitation. This was Iowa's most widespread April snow event since April 10-12, 1997. Weekly precipitation totals varied from 0.23 inches at Walford to 1.55 inches at Centerville while snowfall amounts varied from only traces across portions of extreme southern Iowa up to 10.5 inches at Pocahontas. The statewide average precipitation for the week was 0.74 inches or just slightly greater than the weekly normal of 0.67 inches. Nevertheless, this was Iowa's wettest week since early October 2002.

## Statewide Crop Conditions as of April 6, 2003

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Range & Pasture	15	24	37	23	1



## Field Work and Crop Progress as of April 6, 2003

Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year	Normal
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Fertilizer application completed (including fall work)	41	59	42	64	62	52	61	61	58	55	N/A	54	52
Seedbed, primary preparation completed (including fall work)	30	39	26	24	38	31	39	36	51	34	N/A	40	48
Oats planted	30	11	14	48	49	24	62	56	63	35	5	31	29

## Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of April 6, 2003

Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Days suitable	3.5	2.4	2.5	4.5	4.1	3.3	5.0	4.8	4.5	3.7	N/A	3.5
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	2	1	23	1	27	17	22	31	9	14	N/A	14
Short	22	25	23	21	32	27	28	51	59	31	N/A	37
Adequate	65	68	54	77	36	57	47	19	32	52	N/A	47
Surplus	12	6	1	1	5	0	3	0	0	3	N/A	2
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	10	5	28	14	26	6	28	33	25	19	N/A	15
Short	23	26	40	32	25	42	45	51	61	37	N/A	40
Adequate	67	66	31	54	47	52	28	15	14	43	N/A	44
Surplus	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	N/A	1

**Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service  
Prepared by AWIS, Inc.  
For the week ending: Sunday, April 6, 2003**

STATION	CURRENT WEEK				SINCE APRIL 1				CURRENT WEEK	
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION	PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN
North West District										
Estherville	75	20	41	3	0.00	-0.58	0.00	-0.50	13	13
Sioux Center	82	19	46	4	0.00	-0.54	0.00	-0.46	30	19
Spencer	78	21	43	3	0.02	-0.54	0.02	-0.46	19	12
Spirit Lake	76	19	42	4	0.06	-0.46	0.06	-0.39	19	8
North Central District										
Britt	79	19	42	-1	0.12	-0.48	0.12	-0.40	16	9
Humboldt	81	22	45	2	0.44	-0.19	0.44	-0.10	26	19
Mason City	78	21	41	2	0.17	-0.43	0.17	-0.35	14	7
Northwood	73	19	39	-1	0.06	-0.57	0.06	-0.48	5	5
North East District										
Decorah	76	16	42	-1	0.24	-0.44	0.24	-0.35	21	14
Dubuque	81	19	42	0	0.14	-0.67	0.14	-0.56	19	12
Elkader	82	17	40	-3	0.20	-0.45	0.20	-0.36	11	-4
Independence	84	19	42	0	0.04	-0.63	0.04	-0.54	19	2
Waterloo	88	22	46	4	0.26	-0.42	0.26	-0.33	30	23
West Central District										
Audubon	87	16	47	3	0.30	-0.37	0.30	-0.28	41	27
Carroll	87	23	48	5	0.26	-0.42	0.26	-0.33	42	35
Castana	88	20	47	4	0.09	-0.47	0.09	-0.39	43	36
Guthrie Center	87	25	50	7	0.00	-0.70	0.00	-0.60	59	45
Harlan	89	21	48	3	0.29	-0.34	0.29	-0.25	42	34
Jefferson	88	23	48	6	0.35	-0.33	0.35	-0.24	44	37
Logan	90	24	50	6	0.21	-0.36	0.21	-0.28	52	38
Rockwell City	85	18	46	3	0.41	-0.15	0.41	-0.07	35	22
Sioux City	88	20	48	4	0.00	-0.49	0.00	-0.42	43	29
Central District										
Ames	89	24	50	8	0.22	-0.45	0.22	-0.36	51	44
Boone	87	24	48	5	0.60	-0.09	0.60	0.00	43	34
Des Moines	87	27	52	7	0.25	-0.47	0.25	-0.37	62	48
Eldora	87	22	47	5	0.24	-0.39	0.24	-0.30	36	29
Marshalltown	85	21	48	6	0.12	-0.57	0.12	-0.48	44	37
Newton	87	23	48	4	0.11	-0.55	0.11	-0.46	43	29
Perry	87	25	49	7	0.36	-0.27	0.36	-0.18	46	39
Toledo	85	23	47	5	0.11	-0.55	0.11	-0.46	33	26
East Central District										
Cedar Rapids	86	20	47	4	0.14	-0.55	0.14	-0.46	37	30
Davenport	84	23	49	5	0.34	-0.36	0.34	-0.26	39	28
Iowa City	86	20	48	3	0.14	-0.62	0.14	-0.52	39	25
Lowden	86	19	44	2	0.26	-0.53	0.26	-0.42	29	20
Maquoketa	84	20	43	-1	0.26	-0.43	0.26	-0.34	24	17
Muscatine	83	24	47	1	0.22	-0.55	0.22	-0.44	36	29
South West District										
Clarinda	85	26	52	8	0.19	-0.51	0.19	-0.41	58	49
Glenwood	91	24	52	6	0.33	-0.23	0.33	-0.15	58	44
Oakland	87	24	50	7	0.33	-0.30	0.33	-0.21	50	43
Red Oak	87	25	52	5	0.21	-0.50	0.21	-0.40	57	41
Sidney	87	24	51	6	0.20	-0.45	0.20	-0.36	54	40
South Central District										
Allerton	81	26	49	5	0.45	-0.25	0.45	-0.15	41	40
Beaconsfield	82	23	49	5	0.34	-0.35	0.34	-0.26	39	26
Chariton	83	22	50	6	0.02	-0.72	0.02	-0.62	45	31
Indianola	86	26	50	6	0.30	-0.43	0.30	-0.33	52	38
Leon	82	19	50	6	0.41	-0.30	0.41	-0.20	47	34
South East District										
Bloomfield	80	27	50	3	0.66	-0.09	0.66	0.01	42	23
Burlington	81	29	53	7	0.33	-0.44	0.33	-0.33	54	39
Ottumwa	85	27	53	7	0.23	-0.46	0.23	-0.37	63	49

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.